

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185376

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ORIGIN ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-01 ORM-01 /004 R

ARA/CAR:MR.STRASSER

APPROVEJ BY:ARA/CAR:MR. HEAVNER

S/R:ORM:MR. PAPPAS (DRAFT)

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O 061523Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185376

FOL SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE ATTN OPERATIONS CENTER FOR S/R
/ORM-URGENT INFO SECRETARY OF ARMY WASH DC ATTN ATTN ASA (CW)
EMBASSY PANAMA USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ SECRETARY PANAMA
CANAL COMPANY WASH DCC

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L C 052300Z AUG 75

FROM GOVERNOR OF CZ BALBOA HTS CZ

CZG 1576

SUB: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

A. US EMBASSY PANAMA 4250.

1. PURSUANT TO PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED IN REFUGEE CASES, YOU
ARE ADVISED THAT SERGE DODARD, PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN THE
IMMIGRATION STATION PENDING REPATRIATION TO HAITI, HAS THIS DATE
REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. DODARD CLAIMS TO BE A HAITIAN CITIZEN, BORN 16 MAY 1946,
IN CAPE HAITIEN, HAITI. HE RESIDED AT MONTESSANT 53, PORT-AU-
PRINCE, HAITI, AND HAS HELD OCCUPATIONS AS MECHANIC, CHAUFFEUR
AND ELECTRICIAN. HE HAS NO PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION IN HIS
POSSESSION. HE IS SINGLE. HE HAS ONE SISTER, LAURA CABACHE,
RESIDING AT HIS ADDRESS. DODARD STATES HE HAS NO RELATIVES OR
FRIENDS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES WHO COULD FURNISH ASSISTANCE.
DODARD CLAIMS HE HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD OR POLITICAL
AFFILIATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE BELONGED TO THE GOVERNMENT PARTY IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 185376

HAITI, KNOWN AS THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, AS A MATTER OF

NECESSITY. HE HAS NEVER HELD GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

3. DODARD STATED THAT HE DOES NOT REALLY BELONG WITH THE REST OF THE OTHER HAITIAN REFUGEES BECAUSE HE HIMSELF IS A POLITICAL REFUGEE AND THE OTHERS ARE NOT. HE STATED HE WANTS TO GET AWAY FROM HAITI BECAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT THERE IS BAD AND HE WANTS TO GO ELSEWHERE SO HE CAN LIVE BETTER. HE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, STATING THAT WHEN HE LEFT HAITI HE HAD NO POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF ANY KIND BUT NOW HE DOES. HE SAID HE WAS THE MOST ENLIGHTENED OF THE ENTIRE GROUP AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, HAS SERVED AS THEIR SPOKESMAN, WHICH HAS BROUGHT RESENTMENT AGAINST HIM BY SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, AMONG WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN MILITIA. HE STATED THAT THESE PEOPLE REALIZE THAT HE IS AWARE THAT THE MILITIA MEN HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL TORTURE AND OTHER ACTS AND, AS A RESULT, CONSIDER HIM A POSSIBLE ENEMY. DODARD FEELS THAT IF HE RETURNED TO HAITI WITH THIS GROUP, HE WOULD BE ACCUSED FALSELY AND UNJUSTLY OF CRIMES HE HAS NOT COMMITTED.

4. DODARD STATED THAT WHICHEVER COUNTRY DECIDED TO GIVE HIM POLITICAL ASYLUM, WHETHER IT BE THE UNITED STATES OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY, HE WOULD QUICKLY ADAPT HIMSELF AND WOULD MAKE USE OF HIS TALENTS AS A JOURNEYMAN AND WOULD LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE WHEREVER ACCEPTED.

5. THE HAITIAN AND PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE OF DODARD'S PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IS ALSO KNOWN TO THE HAITIAN EMBASSY.

6. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO TRANSFER THIS CASE TO INS.

7. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED THAT FIVE OTHERS OF THE REFUGEES BEING HELD IN THE IMMIGRATION STATION WERE ALSO SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM. INTERVIEWS WITH THESE FIVE INDIVIDUALS TODAY DID NOT REVEAL ANY REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM AND THEY ALL MAINTAINED THEY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO HAITI BUT WANTED TO GO ELSEWHERE IN ORDER TO FIND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS.

8. PRESENT PLANS ARE TO REPATRIATE ALL 36 HAITIANS BY AIR FROM HOWARD AFB TO HAITI ON OR ABOUT 7 AUGUST 1975. REQUEST DECISION SOONEST AS TO WHETHER POLITICAL REFUGEE STATUS IS TO BE GRANTED TO DODARD.

9. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY, PANAMA, R.P. GDS

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